

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A thermal printhead comprising a substrate and a plurality of heat-producing resistance sections provided on the substrate, the heat-producing resistance sections melting ink of an ink ribbon, which is transferred together with a recording sheet, to transfer the ink onto the recording sheet;

wherein the thermal printhead further comprises an inequality surface region provided downstream from the heat-producing resistance sections in a secondary scanning direction which is a transfer direction of the ink ribbon, the inequality surface region including a plurality of projections each of which extends in the secondary scanning direction and which are aligned at predetermined intervals in a primary scanning direction which is perpendicular to the secondary scanning direction.

2. (Original) The thermal printhead according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the projections are inclined with respect to a center line so as to become farther from the center line as the projections extend downstream in the secondary scanning direction, the center line being a line positioned at the center, in the primary scanning direction, of a region where the heat-producing resisting sections are arranged.

3. (Currently Amended) The thermal printhead according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a glaze layer formed on the substrate; and
an edge pattern which is formed adjacent to a downstream edge of the glaze layer in the secondary scanning direction and is in a form of a rib extending in the primary scanning direction;
wherein the inequality surface region is provided by forming inequalities at an upper portion of the edge pattern.

4. (Original) A thermal printhead comprising a substrate, a glaze layer provided on the substrate, a plurality of heat-producing resistance sections provided on the glaze layer, an electrode layer connected to the heat-producing resistance sections, and a protective layer covering the heat-producing resistance sections and the electrode layer, the heat-producing resistance sections melting ink of an ink ribbon, which is transferred together with a recording sheet, to transfer the ink onto the recording sheet;

wherein the electrode layer includes an electrode portion located downstream from the heat-producing resistance sections in a secondary scanning direction which is a transfer direction of the ink ribbon; and

wherein, of an obverse surface of the protective layer, a region which is located downstream from the electrode portion in the secondary scanning direction is lower, in height on an obverse surface of the glaze layer, than a region covering the electrode portion and comprises a smooth surface without recesses or projections.

5. (Original) The thermal printhead according to claim 4, wherein, of the obverse surface of the protective layer, the region which is located downstream from the electrode portion in the secondary scanning direction is inclined to reduce height from the substrate as the region extends downstream in the secondary scanning direction.